Serving Food to Passengers in Trains

1896. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has recently ruled that food must be served to passengers travelling in trains running late; and

(b) if so, what specific steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) It has been recommended by the Commission that the Railway authorities should make efforts to help passengers by supplying some food in the event of late running of trains.

(b) Steps taken/proposed to be taken include monitoring of late running by Commercial Officers, sending advance intimation to base kitchen, static units en-route, preparation of certain items in the pantry car, providing out of course stoppages at stations having adequate catering facilities, etc.

Introducing Special Train to clear the Summer Rush

1897. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern Railway have decided to introduce special trains so as to clear the summer rush of passengers;

(b) if so, the additional trains introduced/being introduced for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to provide all amenities for the passengers on these special trains and also on platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 425 trains.

(c) Instructions exist for provision of amenities as per norms on these trains. Arrangements at the stations are also strengthened to deal with the extra rush.

Second Class Reservations for Handicapped Persons

1898. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reserve one second class compartment or some berths for handicapped persons on important trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While Railways would like to help the handicapped persons, but considering the demand outstripping the availability of reserved accommodation and similar requests from other categories of passengers, it has not been found feasible to earmark separate accommodation for them.

Complimentary card passes of Railways

1899. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Railways to issue complimentary card passes for travelling by 1st class and AC sleepers to eminent persons;

(b) what is the number of such passes issued as on the 30th April, 1992; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government thereon?